Dialogue with US and Euro countries on Visa for Indian experts

2261. SHRI S.M. LALJAN BASHA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have not been able to evolve a serious and potentially effective dialogue with Euro countries and the USA on how best to treat Indian experts wishing for short-term two month visa under the Mode 4 services category in WTO;

(b) if so, what steps Government propose to take to get some interim relief through the WTO in this regard;

(c) the specific emphasis being given on talks on this issue of Mode 4 service visas for Indian professionals getting service in Europe; and

(d) the achievements so far with WTO in this matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) to (d) India's core objectives in the Doha Round negotiations in services are in Mode 1 (Cross Border Supply) and Mode 4 (Movement of Natural Persons). India is the coordinator of the plurilateral request group on Mode 4. Apart from actively negotiating with all Member countries of the WTO, specially the EC and the USA for gaining effective market access in Mode 4, India has submitted several negotiating proposals on Mode 4 covering issues such as removal of the Economic Needs Test, clear prescription of the duration of stay, provisions of extension, creation of a separate category of visas namely-Service Provider Visas for professionals both for Contractual Service Suppliers (CSS) as well as Independent Professionals (IP). In the Revised Offers tabled by the important trading partners of India, like the EC and Australia, some improvements in Mode 4 have been offered.

Export Promotion Schemes

2262. SHRI CHITTABRATA MAJUMDAR:
SHRI TAPAN KUMAR SEN:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) the names of the schemes, other than SEZ through which various incentives/concessions are extended for export promotion;

(b) the total revenue forgone through the above schemes in 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06; and

(c) the total number of misuse of export promotion schemes during last three years and the amount involved?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Various schemes (other than SEZ) through which incentives/concessions are extended for export promotion include duty Neutralization Schemes like Advance Authorisation, Duty Free Import Authorisation, EOU/EHTP/ STP Scheme, DEPB and Drawback Scheme. That apart duty concession is allowed through EPCG Scheme. We also have in place various reward schemes which include Served From India, Vishesh Krishi and Gram Udyog Yojana, Focus Market Scheme, Focus Product Scheme and Target Plus Scheme (since withdrawn). The details of the schemes are given in the book titled "Foreign Trade Policy, 2004—09", a statutory publication, available in the Parliament library.

(b) The total revenue foregone under Advance Licence, EOU/EHTP/ STP/EPZ, EPCG, Drawback, DEPB, DFRC and DFCEC schemes for the period 2003-04, 2004-05 and 2005-06 was to the tune of Rs. 39740.55 crores, Rs. 38538.01 crores and Rs. 39258.34 crores respectively.

(c) During 2003-04, 496 cases of misuse of involving an amount of Rs. 81,882.05 lakh have been reported and show-cause notices have been issued. Similarly during 2004-05 and 2005-06, show-cause notices have been issued in 606 cases and 209 cases involving an amount of Rs. 1,81,352.65 lakhs and Rs. 94,720.77 lakhs respectively.

Agri Export Centres in Orissa

2263. MS. PRAMILA BOHIDAR:
SHRI B.J. PANDA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Orissa Farmers Development Cooperative Society has asked the Centre to set up regional agriculture export centres in the State for the benefit of farmers;